



US005796986A

United States Patent [19]**Fuller****Patent Number: 5,796,986****[45] Date of Patent: Aug. 18, 1998**

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LINKING COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN DATABASES WITH NUMERICAL CONTROL MACHINE DATABASE**

[75] Inventor: **Mark Fuller, San Jose, Calif.**

[73] Assignee: **3Com Corporation, Santa Clara, Calif.**

[21] Appl. No.: **703,110**

[22] Filed: **Aug. 22, 1996**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 444,944, May 19, 1995, abandoned.

[51] Int. CL⁶ **G06F 15/46**

[52] U.S. Cl. **395/500; 395/80; 395/670; 395/671; 395/680; 395/682; 364/488; 364/489; 364/468.01; 364/468.02**

[58] **Field of Search** **364/489, 498, 364/491, 468.01, 468.02, 130, 136, 478.01; 395/80, 85, 11, 76, 77, 670, 88, 671, 680, 682; 29/703, 740, 741, 739**

[56] References Cited**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

3,653,072 3/1972 Ballas et al. 444/1
4,342,090 7/1982 Caccama et al. 364/491

4,681,452	7/1987	Watanabe	356/375
4,720,798	1/1988	Reed et al	364/489
4,723,221	2/1988	Matsuura et al	364/559
4,737,845	4/1988	Susuki et al	358/101
4,767,489	8/1988	Lindner	156/345
4,780,617	10/1988	Umatate et al	250/548
4,922,434	5/1990	Fule	364/513
5,272,641	12/1993	Ford et al	364/468
5,425,036	6/1995	Liu et al	371/23
5,452,226	9/1995	Hooper et al	364/489

Primary Examiner—Kevin J. Teska

Assistant Examiner—Thai Phan

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP

[57] ABSTRACT

An integrated manufacture and design system and a database translator that allows use of a subset of data directly from a CAD database to provide the necessary control data for use in a CAM assembly system. A database translator according to the present invention can examine the CAD data specifying a product, determine which of the component parts of that product are unknown to the CAM assembly system, and can insert into the CAM assembly system's database whatever new information the CAM system requires to manufacture the product. The invention may be embodied as a number of software modules on a fixed medium such as a computer readable disk or computer memory.

16 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

